

Your name
Your address

Date (?)

Erin Rasnake
Water Quality Evaluation and TMDL Program Administrator
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blaire Stone Road Room 248 A
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Erin Rasnake –

This letter is in support of a request to advance the scheduling of the Lake Jackson Total Maximum Daily Load Project to 2019. It is been on the 303d List of Impaired Waters for both excess nutrients and low dissolved oxygen.

As you undoubtedly know, Lake Jackson is designated as an Outstanding Florida Water. Since 1972 this lake has also be designed as a Florida Aquatic Preserve. It is one of the most beautiful environments and the major aquatic recreational resource of the area. An economic impact study, updated by Dr. T. Lynch in 2016, showed its potential for supporting 140 jobs and contributing \$25 million annually to our local businesses when the lake is restored to meet Florida's water quality standards. Both the 1992 and the 2017 SWIM Reports by the Northwest Florida Water Management District note that leakage from the lake significantly contributes to recharging the aquifer which provides our drinking water. A dye study last year, conducted by Dr. S. McGlynn, showed that the discharge through a Lake Jackson sink hole reaches Wakulla Springs in just 33 days. Finally, there is a large amount of environmental and hydrological data available stretching back more than four decades.

Ongoing development in the watershed makes Lake Jackson a prime candidate for the 'priority waterbody' designation as described in the USEPA 303(d) guidance. The above-stated facts satisfy the TMDL program's criteria for this designation (see Sept 1, 2015 letter G. DeAngelo to G. Danios). Accordingly, I am in agreement with the August 16, 2016 petition by the Friends of Lake Jackson to expedite the initiation of a TMDL Program. I feel that the TMDL for Lake Jackson should be included in the 2019 schedule because it is needed to guide the ongoing efforts of local and state agencies to improve the water quality and to restore the ecological balance of the lake.

Lake Jackson is a significant ecological and recreational resource, one that residents living in Leon County take pride, and one that effects the groundwater resources of the area. By inserting the TMDL for Lake Jackson in your program's 2019 work schedule you will help us insure the integrity of Lake Jackson for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Note –

The 2015 Economic Impact Study is available on the web site of the Friends of Lake Jackson

The 2017 SWIM Plan by the N.W. Water Management District is available on their web site

The Sept 1, 2015 letter from G. DeAngelo (FDEP) to G. Danios(USEPA) describes the department's work plan to carry out TMDL/BMAP programs statewide in a predetermined order and the criteria for introducing important "priority" waterbodies into this scheduled work sequence.

DRAFT